



Illinois Department of  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**For youth and families involved with DJJ**

**Q: How long will the visitation suspension last?**

We are following the guidelines established by the Governor and Illinois Department of Public Health and will re-open for visitation as soon as possible. At this point, will continue through May 30, and we will keep you posted if that date changes. We value family engagement and recognize our role in strengthening DJJ-involved families, we have worked to make video visitation and increased phone calls available for continued family connection.

**Q: How will I know that my loved one is safe?**

We have taken many precautions to reduce the risk of infection at DJJ. We have increased our cleaning and sanitation schedule, screened all individuals entering our facilities, limited the number of individuals entering the facility, and limited the amount of youth held at each facility. Our screening procedure prohibits anyone who is experiencing fever or respiratory symptoms from entering our facilities.

Additionally, we have increased youth access to phones and eliminated all costs to outgoing phone calls from youth. Additionally, youth have increased access to video calls with the hopes that they will remain in close contact with their family and friends.



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**Q: What will happen if my loved one gets sick?**

All youth are being monitored closely for any sickness or signs of respiratory illness. Youth who are sick are taken to and treated at the medical unit. Staff will also immediately notify the Medical Director and report the incident to the Executive Staff member on duty. The Medical Director will determine if a COVID-19 test is necessary for that youth.

**Q: What will happen if my loved one tests positive for COVID-19?**

If a youth at DJJ tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the guidelines established by the Governor, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois Emergency Management Agency which will include isolating the youth and securing the necessary medical treatment.

**Q: My loved one believes they have the symptoms and was seen by Medical, but no further action was taken. Why?**

DJJ closely follows the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health and our Medical Director. They advise all who are showing symptoms to avoid contact with others, rest, report their symptoms to their medical provider, and seek medical attention when needed. Our medical staff will closely monitor the condition of any youth showing symptoms and provide the appropriate medical attention.



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**Q: If another youth tests positive for COVID-19, how will my loved one be protected from the virus?**

If another youth tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow guidance from our Medical Director and the Illinois Department of Public Health and quarantine all youth and staff who were in close contact with the confirmed case. Additionally, we will clean and sanitize all spaces frequented by the youth who tested positive. We will closely monitor the situation and all who are impacted to prevent the virus from spreading in the facility.

**Q: Will my loved one be released soon?**

The Department of Juvenile Justice has a process for determining the release of youth on Aftercare. In addition to continuing with that process, the department is also following guidance from the Department of Public Health, the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators, the American Corrections Association, and national guidance for jails and lock-ups regarding population management during this time. We are evaluating all DJJ-involved youth who are eligible for release to determine the most appropriate and safest date for release.



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**For youth and families involved with DJJ**

**Q: Are there any positive cases of COVID-19 at DJJ?**

**As of 05/01/2020, there are no youths with confirmed cases of COVID-19.** A few staff have reported positive tests for COVID-19, however, through our screening protocol and contact tracing, we were able to quickly identify the risk of exposure to any other staff and youth.

With support and advising from the Illinois Department of Public Health and our Medical Director, we are able to take the necessary steps to reduce the risk of spread within the facility. Cleaning, sanitizing, social distancing, and universal masking happen daily within DJJ facilities. Protecting the health and safety youth remains our highest priority and we will continue to do all that we can to prevent COVID-19 from spreading within the Department.

**Q: Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns?**

Your child's Youth & Family Specialist, who is sometimes called a "counselor", can answer questions or resolve issues. If you are unable to reach your child's Youth & Family Specialist, you can also call the facility and ask to speak with the DAO (Duty Administrative Officer) or the Shift Supervisor.

For updated information on the impact of COVID-19 and how the state of Illinois is managing the virus, visit [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov).